

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the present application, as amended, is respectfully requested.

A. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS

As a result of the present amendment, claims 13-28 are presented in the case for continued examination.

Claims 13-28 are allowed.

Claim 15 has been amended to correct informalities.

No new matter has been added.

B. INFORMATION DISCLOSURE

At items 5-6 on page 3, the Examiner indicated that JP 2000-523938 listed in IDS submitted on March 19, 2009 was not considered as a copy was not submitted. The reference was submitted as it was cited by the Japanese Patent Office during prosecution of the corresponding Japanese Patent Application. However, the Japanese Patent Office did not provide a copy of the reference nor the copy is available through any other patent office databases. Accordingly, Applicants hereby submit WO 98/00559, the corresponding International Application Publication of JP 2000-523938, for the Examiner's consideration for the record. A USPTO form SB/08 is enclosed herein with a copy of WO 98/00559.

C. AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

At item 7 on page 4, the drawings are objected to as allegedly failing to comply with 37 C.F.R. 1.84(p)(5) for some reference character(s) not mentioned in the description. The Examiner indicated that reference character [4] in Figures 3a and 3b and reference character [7] in Figures 12a and 13a are not discussed within the specification. Without admitting the appropriateness of the Examiner's position and for the purpose of facilitating prosecution, the specification has been amended to insert the description of reference character [4] in Figures 3a and 3b and reference character [7] in Figures 12a and 13a, wherein the reference character [4] indicates the ground and the reference character [7] is the gas bubble.. "Contacted with ground 4" has been inserted to the description of FIGS. 3a and 3b and "inject gas" in the description of

FIGS. 12a and 13a has been amended to "inject gas 7."

Thus, as a result of the amendment and the reasons above, the Applicants respectfully request this objection being withdrawn.

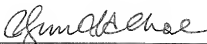
D. FEES

This response is being filed within the shortened period for response. No fee is believed to be required. If, on the other hand, it is determined that any fees are due or any overpayment has been made, the Assistant Commissioner is hereby authorized to debit or credit such sum to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.136(a)(3), please treat this and any concurrent or future reply in this application that requires a petition for an extension of time for its timely submission as incorporating a petition for extension of time for the appropriate length of time. The fee associated therewith is to be charged to Deposit Account No. 02-2275.

An early and favorable action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
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